



For Immediate Release: Wednesday, April 26, 2006

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MARCH LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

METRO AREAS

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that preliminary March unemployment rates in all 12 of the state's metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) were lower than February rates. The lowest metro area unemployment rate was 3.7 percent measured in the Madison MSA. While the highest rate was 6.3 percent in Racine, the Racine MSA had the greatest monthly improvement; down four-tenths of a percentage point.

Six of the twelve metro areas had lower unemployment rates when compared to March 2005; four were unchanged; and two were higher. The Eau Claire MSA showed the largest improvement in its annual unemployment rate, down six-tenths of a percentage point. The Racine MSA and La Crosse MSA also had improved rates at four-tenths of a percentage point lower than March 2005.

Preliminary nonfarm wage and salary estimates showed monthly job gains across most of the state's metro areas. The Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis MSA gained 2,800 jobs since February, posting the state's largest net increase for the month of March. Ten of the 12 metro areas posted net job growth on an annual basis with the Madison MSA gaining 6,900 jobs. The Green Bay MSA gained 2,800 jobs and the Racine MSA has 1,500 more jobs than it had in March 2005.

"Unemployment in our metropolitan areas is decreasing, and our labor market continues to show improvement. We are making progress in Wisconsin, but work still remains to ensure all areas of the state are growing," Secretary Gassman said.

COUNTY RATES

Fifty-nine Wisconsin counties either stayed the same or improved. Wood County's rate posted the biggest improvement, falling one percentage point to 6.5 percent in March. Six counties' rates remained unchanged. Price and Menominee each increased by 1.3 percent point in March. Ashland County increased one percent point. The state's lowest county-level unemployment rates were measured in Dane and Ozaukee counties, each having rates below four percent. The highest rates for the month of March were measured in Menominee and Iron counties at 11.6 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

Thirty-nine Wisconsin counties have lower unemployment rates when compared to March 2005. Taylor County's rate is 1.4 percent point lower than it was last March. In total, 14 counties have unemployment rates that are at least five-tenths of a percentage lower, annually. Thirteen counties' rates were unchanged. Twenty counties' rates were higher in comparison to last March with Menominee County posting the largest annual increase, 3.2 percent points.

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Employment and Labor Force

Place of Residence Data

Unadjusted labor force estimates

	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,052,200	3,042,300	3,012,600
Employed	2,883,900	2,868,600	2,843,300
Unemployed	168,300	173,700	169,300
Wis. Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.7%	5.6%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.8%	5.1%	5.4%

Adjusted labor force estimates

	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Total labor force</i>	3,074,800	3,066,100	3,041,500
<i>Employed</i>	2,931,000	2,919,100	2,895,500
<i>Unemployed</i>	143,800	147,100	146,000
<i>Wis. Unemployment Rate</i>	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%
<i>U.S. Unemployment Rate</i>	4.7%	4.8%	5.1%

Unadjusted Unemployment Rate, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

MSA	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Wisconsin</i>	5.5	5.7	5.6
<i>Appleton</i>	5.4	5.5	5.2
<i>Eau Claire</i>	5.2	5.5	5.8
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	5.4	5.6	5.4
<i>Green Bay</i>	5.5	5.6	5.5
<i>Janesville</i>	5.6	5.9	5.9
<i>La Crosse</i>	4.6	4.9	5.0
<i>Madison</i>	3.7	3.9	3.7
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	5.4	5.6	5.5
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	5.0	5.2	5.0
<i>Racine</i>	6.3	6.7	6.7
<i>Sheboygan</i>	4.4	4.7	4.5
<i>Wausau</i>	5.3	5.5	5.1

Place of Work Data

Nonfarm wage and salary estimates, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), in thousands

MSA	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Wisconsin</i>	2,816.6	2,806.0	2,781.6
<i>Appleton</i>	114.8	115.2	114.5
<i>Eau Claire</i>	79.3	79.0	78.1
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	48.3	48.2	47.4
<i>Green Bay</i>	167.3	167.4	164.5
<i>Janesville</i>	68.4	68.3	68.7
<i>La Crosse</i>	72.3	71.8	71.9
<i>Madison</i>	342.9	342.7	336.0
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	819.3	816.5	827.0
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	91.2	90.3	90.5
<i>Racine</i>	80.3	80.3	78.8
<i>Sheboygan</i>	62.8	62.5	62.3
<i>Wausau</i>	71.1	71.2	70.8

WISCONSIN COUNTIES
Unemployment Rates
March 2006
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
7	ADAMS	8.4%	8.9%	4	8.9%	57	MARATHON	5.3%	5.5%	55	5.1%
18	ASHLAND	7.5%	6.5%	33	7.6%	16	MARINETTE	7.5%	7.7%	17	7.0%
23	BARRON	7.2%	7.3%	26	7.2%	15	MARQUETTE	7.6%	8.0%	11	8.4%
3	BAYFIELD	9.3%	9.3%	3	8.5%	1	MENOMINEE	11.6%	10.3%	1	8.4%
60	BROWN	5.1%	5.3%	61	5.2%	37	MILWAUKEE	6.1%	6.4%	34	6.3%
62	BUFFALO	5.1%	5.0%	65	5.5%	61	MONROE	5.1%	5.2%	63	5.3%
20	BURNETT	7.3%	7.6%	18	7.6%	13	OCONTO	7.8%	8.0%	12	7.2%
66	CALUMET	4.4%	4.7%	66	4.4%	11	ONEIDA	8.0%	8.1%	10	8.0%
26	CHIPPEWA	6.9%	7.2%	27	7.3%	48	OUTAGAMIE	5.6%	5.7%	52	5.4%
19	CLARK	7.3%	7.9%	15	7.9%	71	OZAUKEE	3.9%	4.1%	71	4.1%
50	COLUMBIA	5.5%	5.9%	41	5.3%	32	PEPIN	6.5%	6.6%	31	7.2%
38	CRAWFORD	6.1%	6.2%	37	6.7%	40	PIERCE	6.0%	5.5%	56	5.8%
72	DANE	3.4%	3.6%	72	3.4%	21	POLK	7.3%	7.5%	23	7.1%
46	DODGE	5.6%	5.9%	44	5.8%	39	PORTAGE	6.0%	5.8%	49	5.8%
12	DOOR	7.9%	7.9%	16	8.5%	30	PRICE	6.7%	5.4%	60	6.2%
33	DOUGLAS	6.5%	6.1%	40	6.6%	35	RACINE	6.3%	6.7%	30	6.7%
43	DUNN	5.9%	5.9%	46	5.8%	58	RICHLAND	5.2%	5.5%	54	5.5%
70	EAU CLAIRE	4.2%	4.5%	69	4.8%	47	ROCK	5.6%	5.9%	45	5.9%
10	FLORENCE	8.1%	8.0%	14	7.0%	8	RUSK	8.4%	8.3%	8	8.8%
55	FOND DU LAC	5.4%	5.6%	53	5.4%	52	SAUK	5.5%	5.9%	43	5.7%
4	FOREST	8.8%	8.9%	5	8.9%	5	SAWYER	8.7%	8.7%	6	8.3%
56	GRANT	5.3%	5.7%	50	5.6%	36	SHAWANO	6.3%	6.3%	35	6.1%
54	GREEN	5.4%	5.7%	51	5.3%	67	SHEBOYGAN	4.4%	4.7%	67	4.5%
22	GREEN LAKE	7.2%	7.5%	22	8.0%	29	ST. CROIX	6.8%	6.5%	32	6.2%
42	IOWA	5.9%	6.1%	39	5.9%	24	TAYLOR	7.0%	7.4%	24	8.4%
2	IRON	10.0%	9.4%	2	10.5%	53	TREMPEALEAU	5.5%	5.8%	47	6.1%
9	JACKSON	8.2%	8.5%	7	8.0%	45	VERNON	5.7%	6.1%	38	5.9%
59	JEFFERSON	5.2%	5.4%	58	5.5%	6	VILAS	8.5%	8.3%	9	8.4%
28	JUNEAU	6.8%	7.3%	25	7.4%	63	WALWORTH	5.0%	5.4%	57	5.0%
44	KENOSHA	5.8%	5.8%	48	6.5%	14	WASHBURN	7.8%	8.0%	13	8.2%
49	KEWAUNEE	5.6%	5.4%	59	5.6%	65	WASHINGTON	4.9%	5.0%	64	4.9%
68	LA CROSSE	4.4%	4.6%	68	4.8%	69	WAUKESHA	4.3%	4.4%	70	4.3%
51	LAFAYETTE	5.5%	5.9%	42	5.5%	34	WAUPACA	6.3%	6.8%	29	6.5%
17	LANGLADE	7.5%	7.6%	19	7.3%	25	WAUSHARA	6.9%	7.5%	21	6.9%
27	LINCOLN	6.9%	7.2%	28	7.0%	64	WINNEBAGO	5.0%	5.2%	62	5.0%
41	MANITOWOC	5.9%	6.2%	36	6.0%	31	WOOD	6.5%	7.5%	20	7.3%

WISCONSIN CITIES
Unemployment Rates
March 2006
 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
8	APPLETON CITY	6.9%	7.1%	6	6.5%
2	BELOIT CITY	7.8%	8.2%	2	8.5%
27	BROOKFIELD CITY	3.7%	3.8%	27	3.6%
20	EAU CLAIRE CITY	4.6%	4.8%	20	5.3%
11	FOND DU LAC CITY	6.1%	6.4%	11	6.1%
26	FRANKLIN CITY	4.0%	4.2%	26	4.0%
3	GREEN BAY CITY	7.7%	7.9%	3	7.9%
19	GREENFIELD CITY	4.8%	5.2%	19	4.8%
13	JANESVILLE CITY	5.8%	6.0%	12	5.8%
10	KENOSHA CITY	6.6%	6.5%	9	7.3%
18	LA CROSSE CITY	5.1%	5.4%	18	5.7%
28	MADISON CITY	3.2%	3.3%	28	3.2%
7	MANITOWOC CITY	7.0%	7.1%	7	6.8%
21	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	4.3%	4.4%	23	4.4%
4	MILWAUKEE CITY	7.5%	7.8%	4	7.7%
23	NEENAH CITY	4.1%	4.5%	21	4.2%
24	NEW BERLIN CITY	4.1%	4.3%	25	4.2%
22	OAK CREEK CITY	4.2%	4.5%	22	4.5%
17	OSHKOSH CITY	5.4%	5.6%	16	5.6%
1	RACINE CITY	9.8%	10.1%	1	10.6%
16	SHEBOYGAN CITY	5.4%	5.8%	13	5.6%
5	STEVENS POINT CITY	7.5%	6.9%	8	6.8%
12	SUPERIOR CITY	5.9%	5.6%	17	6.0%
15	WAUKESHA CITY	5.5%	5.7%	15	5.4%
9	WAUSAU CITY	6.7%	6.5%	10	6.2%
25	WAUWATOSA CITY	4.0%	4.3%	24	3.9%
14	WEST ALLIS CITY	5.6%	5.8%	14	5.7%
6	WEST BEND CITY	7.3%	7.3%	5	7.4%

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
 Bureau of Workforce Information